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REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-2, 5-11, 14-15 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent Number 6,324,582 issued to Sridhar on November 27, 2001 and U. S. Patent Application Number 2002/0075304 issued to Thompson dated June 20, 2002.

Claims 3-4 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar and Thompson, and further in view of U. S. Patent Number 7,103,770 issued to Conrath on September 5, 2006.

Claims 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar, Thompson, and Conrath as applied to claims 1-11, 14-17 and 19-21, and further in view of U. S. Patent Number 7,047,305 issued to Brooks on May 16, 2006.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar, Thompson, Conrath, and Brooks as applied to claims 1-12 and 14-21, and further in view of U. S. Patent Number 6,801,604 issued to Maes on October 5, 2004.

Rejection Under Sridhar and Thompson

Claims 1-2, 5-11, 14-15 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar and Thompson.

Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Applicant's claim 1 recites,

"one or more server components operable to communication with one or more router components located in one or more homes or offices, wherein the one or more server components employ one or more identifiers of one or more communication devices to make a determination of one or more internet protocol addresses of the one or more router components, and wherein the one or more identifiers comprise any one or more of:

a phone number for one or more users associated with the one or more communication devices;

an email address for the one or more users associated with the one or more communication devices;

an instant message name for the one or more users associated with the one or more communication devices; and

a user name for the one or more users associated with the one or more communication devices;

wherein the one or more router components located in the one or more homes or offices register one or more assigned internet protocol addresses with the one or more server components, and wherein the one or more router components periodically re-register with the one or more server components to ensure reliability of an Internet protocol translation."

As stated in the Office Action, Sridhar does not teach or suggest "router components located in one or more homes or offices". Moreover, applicant notes that Thompson does not teach or suggest these elements either.

Instead, Thompson discloses a virtual team environment (VTE) that facilitates collaboration among geographically-dispersed team members. Applicant agrees that the team members may be located in homes and offices, as shown in FIG. 1. However, contrary to applicant's claim 1, Thompson does not disclose or suggest routers located in the homes or offices. (See FIG. 1) This is because the team members have communications devices that access a networked based packet network and the public switched telephone network (PSTN). In fact, Thompson discloses virtual team clients, e.g., PDA client, web client and WAP client, that connect to a VTE server 40 located in the network-based packet network and telephones that connect via the PSTN. (See FIGs. 2-4 and paragraph 0081) Furthermore, Thompson discloses in paragraph 0084,

"In the illustrated embodiment, interaction between each VTE client 4 and the collaboration services suite 2 is implemented by packet-based messaging between respective communications devices associated with each VTE client 4 and the VTE server 40, via the packet network 46 and the connection manager 52."

In essence, Thompson's technique is a network-based configuration for team members located in homes and/or offices. Thus, Thompson, similar to Sridhar, is missing the "router components located in one or more homes or offices" elements, as recited in applicant's claim 1.

Thus, the clear teaching of Sridhar and Thompson is that the one or more router components are not located in one or more homes or offices.

Therefore the proposed combination of Sridhar and Thompson does not teach or suggest all of the limitations in applicant's claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is allowable over the proposed combination. Since claims 2-14 and 22 depend from allowable claim 1, these claims are also allowable over the proposed combination.

Independent claims 15 and 21 each have a limitation similar to that of independent claim 1, which was shown is not taught by the proposed combination of Sridhar and Thompson. For example, claims 15 and 21 recite, "router components located in one or more homes or offices". The proposed combination of Sridhar and Thompson does not teach or suggest this limitation for the above-mentioned reasons. Therefore, claims 15 and 21 are likewise allowable over the proposed combination. Since claims 16-20 depend from claim 15, these dependent claims are also allowable over the proposed combination.

Rejections Under Sridhar, Thompson, Conrath, Brooks and Maes

Claims 3-4 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar and Thompson, and further in view of Conrath.

Claims 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar, Thompson, and Conrath as applied to claims 1-11, 14-17 and 19-21, and further in view of Brooks.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar, Thompson, Conrath, and Brooks as applied to claims 1-12 and 14-21, and further in view of Maes.

Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection.

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These rejections are based on the rejection under Sridhar and Thompson being proper. As that ground of rejection has been overcome, and none of the cited references teach or suggest "router components located in one or more homes or offices", as recited in applicant's independent claims 1, 15 and 21, the combination of Sridhar, Thompson, Conrath, Brooks and Maes does not supply this missing element. Thus, this combination does not make obvious any of applicant's claims, all of which require the aforesaid limitation.

New Claim

New claim 23 has been added. Claim 23 provides an additional limitation directed to the router component. No new matter has been added.

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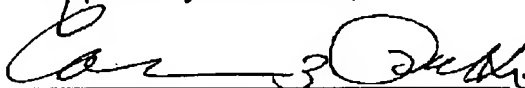
Conclusion

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It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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